

HCFA must work with accrediting organizations to develop a comprehensive crosswalk between the organization's and Medicare's standards and must resolve any differences.

Accrediting organizations must notify HCFA when facilities are found to be noncompliant and must work with HCFA to assure that hospitals promptly correct identified problems and that HCFA is immediately informed of these actions.

Some accrediting organizations are attempting to increase public accountability. For example, the joint commission publicly releases information about the performance of specific health care organizations so that beneficiaries are able to make educated decisions concerning their health care providers. The commission also has a site on the World Wide Web through which the public will be able to access status information about specific organizations by late this year. However, the joint commission is only one of the many organizations that accredits Medicare facilities.

The goal of the bill I am introducing today is to begin the debate . . . accrediting organizations must be accountable to the public. We must guarantee that the public voice is represented in the organizations responsible for safety and quality in Medicare's healthcare facilities. When this is achieved, we can begin to assure beneficiaries that they will receive high quality treatment in all Medicare-approved facilities.

REV. THEODORE CARL MELINATE;
SPREADING JOY ALONG THE WAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has blessed us all with his commitment and generosity to our Nation's children, the Reverend Theodore Carl Melinat. Reverend Melinat epitomizes the qualities of selflessness, dedication, and devotion that all members of our Society should aspire to.

On Saturday, February 22, The Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan will hold its annual meeting, "Joy Along the Way," and honor Rev. Theodore Carl Melinat for his 30 years of dedication to Lutheran Child and Family Services and the people of Michigan. Reverend Melinat joined the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan in 1967 when it was still called the Lutheran Children's Friend Society of Michigan and served as its executive assistant until 1971. In 1972, Reverend Melinat became the executive director of the agency, a post he continues to hold. In 1981, under the Reverend's directorship, the agency switched to its current name, the Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan.

Ted Melinat was born in Crockston, MN and attended Concordia College, Concordia Seminary, and the University of Michigan before becoming a Missionary-at-Large for the Michigan District of LC-MS in northwest Grand Rapids. During his long and varied career, Theodore Carl Melinat has been the first pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park, MI, the vacancy pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, MI, and served as an advisory pastoral delegate for the Convention of

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Anaheim, CA. Always willing to give of himself, Reverend Melinat over the years has served on numerous boards of directors for Michigan Children associations such as the Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies.

Never seeking the limelight, Reverend Melinat has quietly contributed his time and energy to a wide variety of charitable causes for the sake of our children. Causes such as the Child Welfare League of America and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Issues have been fortunate enough to have the Reverend working tirelessly on behalf of their organization. Through the years, the Reverend has served on numerous boards to assist the Lutheran Church in their outreach efforts in Michigan. Reverend Melinat is a humble, decent citizen who has embodied the Christian work ethic throughout three decades of dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, moral courage and dedication to service are only two of the myriad of admirable qualities that Theodore Carl Melinat teaches us by example every day. For three decades Michigan's children and you and I have been fortunate enough to have him as an advocate. For these reasons, I ask you and the rest of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Melinat for 30 years of dedicated service to the people, and most importantly the children, of Michigan.

IT IS TIME FOR AN AFRICAN-
AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, once again I am introducing a bill to establish an African-American Museum on the Mall in Washington, DC as part of the Smithsonian. I submit this bill during Black History Month to highlight the significance, urgency and importance of such a museum.

The story of black people in America has yet to be told in its entirety. African-American history is an integral part of our country, yet the richness and variety of that history is little-known and little-understood. As tourists from all over the world come to visit our Nation's Capital, they will not be able to learn the full history of black people in America. This museum presents a great opportunity—to showcase our history in its diversity and breadth, and to make the understanding of American history more complete.

Did you know that Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneering heart surgeon that played a vital role in the discovery of open-heart surgery? And that Ernest Everett Just, Percy Julian, and George Washington Carver were all outstanding scientists? Educators such as W.E.B. DuBois and Benjamin E. Mays left an indelible mark on this country. The Harlem Renaissance produced poets, writers, and musicians like Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Duke Ellington. The civil rights movement changed the face of this country and inspired movements toward democracy and justice all over the world producing great leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Whitney Young. Too few people know that Benjamin Benneker,

an outstanding mathematician, along with Pierre L' Enfant, designed the District of Columbia. There are many more and their stories must be told.

Until we understand the African-American story in its fullness and complexity, we cannot understand ourselves as a nation. We must know we are and where we have come from so that we may move forward together. And we recognize the importance of all our people and all of our history. The establishment of this museum would be one important step toward achieving greater understanding as a nation and as a people.

It is my hope and prayer that as we preserve these important moments in history, we will inspire future generations to dream, to write, to march and to teach. As they are able to look back at all that has been accomplished, they will be able to look forward and believe in the future of our great country.

I am pleased and delighted that many of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring this bill. I urge all my colleagues of the 105th Congress to support this worthwhile and important legislation.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, excellent progress was made on immigration reform. I was proud to be an active participant. However, we did not go far enough. Much more needs to be done to stem the ever increasing tide of illegal aliens flowing across the U.S.-Mexico border. That's why today I am introducing legislation which would authorize the use of Department of Defense personnel to assist the U.S. Border Patrol and other Federal law enforcement agencies working to stop illegal immigration.

With current estimates reporting thousands of illegal immigrants entering our country each day, Congress has an obligation to make available to Federal law enforcement agencies all possible resources in securing our borders.

My bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to assign Department of Defense personnel to assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service in patrolling the borders and stopping illegal immigration. The bill does not mandate the use of troops on our border. It simply authorizes the Pentagon to supply troops at the request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Treasury. In addition, if employed, the troops would only provide support to law enforcement. They would have no arrest powers.

For the last 8 years, the Department of Defense has rapidly and dramatically expanded its role in the "war on drugs." Today's military is well-equipped to handle law enforcement functions. The military's role in combating drug smuggling along our southern border is a perfect example. Given the continuing problem we have with illegal immigrants, Federal law enforcement officials should be given the option of using the military to support their efforts.

I would urge my colleagues to support my legislation. It is a positive step in closing the door on illegal immigration.